

A NEW FORM OF HELIANTHUS FROM SOUTH FLORIDA

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HELIANTHUS TUBEROSUS f. MOLDENKEANUS Oswald, f. nov.

Haec forma a forma typica species differt ad nodos folii inferiores stirpium crassorum incrementa tuberosa aerea fertilia formante; hi tubri aerii purpureo-rubri, plerumque nodosi, addimidia viventia inferioria caulis principalis evolventes, postquam summa plantae emoriata, marcidata, ad solum delapsa. Tubri hypogaei base caulium fasciculati, rare rhizomata evolventes, nodis magnis acaulatis, pellibus cretaceis, subinde perpallide bruno-albis basibus, vel vividivirentibus suffusis quum ad vel prope superficies soli evolventes.

This form differs from the typical form of the species by forming tuberous, aerial, fertile growths on the lower leaf nodes of the thick stems. These aerial tubers are purple-red, usually nodose, developing in the living lower halves of the principal stems, after the tops of the dead, withered plants have fallen to earth. Hypogaeous tubers clustered at the bases of the stems, rarely developing rhizomes, with large stemless knobs, with skins China white, sometimes tinted very paley brownish-white or bright green when developing on or near the soil.*

Tall branching plants with leafy tops and abundant yellow flowers. Stems purple-red with stiff whitish hairs, the rough leaves green, becoming yellow then brown after seed heads form.

The original plant was discovered by the author on November 19, 1980. Utilizing this plant, the aerial tubers were removed from the stalks and planted, to remain dormant in the sandy soil until sprouting in May, 1981 to eventually develop into flowering, tuber-bearing plants. The below-ground tubers were also removed and replanted, to also appear at the same time, maturing true to form.

*For previously described forms see PHYTOLOGIA Vol. 44, No. 6, December 1979, page 419.

The root system containing the below-ground tubers and lower parts of the above-ground stem with the attached aerial tubers of this form were collected by the author on November 16, 1981; the flowering tops of this form were collected from marked plants by the author on September 1, 1982, (this later date due to the fact that the aerial tubers form after the flowering tops die), 300 feet south of State Road 78 and 155 feet east of Crescent Lake Drive, North Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida. The logotypes of this form are deposited in the Lundell Herbarium, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, as A. L. & H. N. Moldenke 31740 & 31741.

This sunflower is named in honor of Harold Norman Moldenke (1909-) as a token of appreciation for his many decades of furthering public interest, the author included, through all available media, giving countless hours of his own free time to teach the wonders and beauties of nature, and in their conservation, so vital for the continued preservation of our nation's wonderful natural resources.
